



Tampa wants to increase reclaimed water use

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

TAMPA, FL — City officials here are considering a plan to build a small wastewater treatment plant that would send reclaimed water to north Tampa residents to use for irrigation purposes, according to local reports.

The plan, which would reduce the 55 million gallons a day of treated wastewater that Tampa releases into Tampa Bay, is being considered in part due to pressure from the US Environmental Protection Agency and state agencies. Florida utilities are being pressured to take steps to reduce the release of pollutants into coastal waters and to use less potable water for irrigation, according to a May 13 *St. Petersburg Times* [article](#) on [OrlandoSentinel.com](#).

However, state lawmakers are urging Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio to sign on with a private company that wants to sell Tampa's reclaimed water to customers that include Tampa Electric Co., Mosaic Fertilizer, Hillsborough and Polk counties, Lakeland and Bartow.

Iorio wants to keep the water local, and through a proposed wastewater treatment plant, send it to residents in north Tampa. Residents there currently do not have an option of using reclaimed water for irrigation, according to a May 13 article in [The Tampa Tribune](#).

Iorio also is proposing lowering the cost of reclaimed water for all customers as a way to encourage residents to connect to the system.